

**Senate Resolution**

**No. 9**

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**Introduced by Senator DeSaulnier**

February 17, 2011

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Senate Resolution No. 9—Relative to California Teen Safe Driving Week.

1 WHEREAS, Law enforcement and other first responders,  
2 teachers, parents, and friends are all deeply impacted by the loss  
3 of teens from motor vehicle crashes on California's roadways; and  
4 WHEREAS, Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of  
5 death for teens in the United States accounting for more than one  
6 in three deaths; and  
7 WHEREAS, Per mile driven, teen drivers 16 to 19 years of age  
8 are four times more likely to crash than older drivers; and  
9 WHEREAS, In 2009, more than 3,000 teens in the United States  
10 15 to 19 years of age were killed and more than 350,000 were  
11 treated in emergency rooms for injuries suffered in motor vehicle  
12 crashes; and  
13 WHEREAS, Seventy-seven percent of the 16-year-old drivers  
14 killed in motor vehicle crashes in California were at fault; and  
15 WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of all fatal teen collisions are  
16 caused by reckless and distracted driving and about 25 percent of  
17 the fatalities involve alcohol and drugs; and  
18 WHEREAS, Drivers who use handheld devices, such as cell  
19 phones, are four times more likely to get into crashes that cause  
20 serious injury; and  
21 WHEREAS, Thirty-four percent of teens 16 and 17 years of age  
22 who say they have texted while driving and 48 percent of all teens

1 12 to 17 years of age say they have been in a car when the driver  
2 was texting; and

3 WHEREAS, Despite the fact that California has the highest rate  
4 of ~~seat belt~~ *seatbelt* usage in the nation, 37 percent of the  
5 16-year-old passengers who died in motor vehicle crashes in  
6 California were not wearing ~~seat belts~~ *seatbelts*; and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately two-thirds of the deaths of teen  
8 passengers 13 to 19 years of age occur when other teens are  
9 driving; and

10 WHEREAS, One in three teen drivers are involved in motor  
11 vehicle crashes during their first year of driving; and

12 WHEREAS, There is no in-car driver training in California's  
13 high schools and although driver's education is required in  
14 California's public school curriculum, only about one-third of the  
15 high schools actually offer it due to budget and staff limitations;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, A 16-year-old soccer player has had about 1,500  
18 hours of coached soccer practice, but only 50 hours of driving  
19 practice before getting his or her license; and

20 WHEREAS, A manicurist is required to have 400 supervised  
21 hours of training in order to get a license, but a teen driver needs  
22 only six hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience supervised  
23 by a professional; and

24 WHEREAS, It is necessary to raise awareness; reach teens,  
25 parents, and teachers; and influence change in risky driving  
26 behavior in order to reduce the number of teens killed on  
27 California's roadways each year; now, therefore, be it

28 ~~Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the~~  
29 ~~RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,~~  
30 ~~That the~~ week of March 6, 2011, be declared "California Teen  
31 Safe Driving Week"; and be it further

32 ~~Resolved,~~ That with the help of law enforcement organizations,  
33 teachers, parents, students, and the Impact Teen Drivers program,  
34 a nonprofit organization aimed at stopping reckless and distracted  
35 teen driving, the State of California will observe the week of March  
36 6, 2011, with appropriate activities that promote the practice of  
37 safe driving among teen drivers.

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